attentoin to the amenities provided to the slum dwellers, particularly in the city of Bombay. Basic amenities like water, sanitary arrangement, electricity are not there. The Government of Maharashtra has been approaching and talking to the Central Government day in and day out There are various departments involved in getting the permission to provide the basic amenities to the city of Bombay particularly the slum dwellers. The majority of the slums are housed on Government land, be it Defence, be it...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That doesn't relate to this. You can put your question relating to planning but not on Central Government land.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: I would like from the hon. Minister whether he can coordinate in seeing that the permission which is obtained from the Central Government ... (*Interruptions*)... That is part (a) of my question which arises from the main question. The second part of my question also arises out of the main question. Fifty percent of the population will be living in urban areas by the end of the century. Right now it is 30 per cent. But the end of the century it will be 50 per cent of the people living in urban areas.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now let him answer, if he can.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: May I know from the Urban Development Minister whether he is aware of the fact that 50 per cent of the population will be...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not the Urban Development Minister. He is a Planning Minister. He is answering questions on planning and programme implementation. The original question relates to that. So the question doesn't arise. Q. No. 362.

Distrite consumer fora

*362. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:†
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2298 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1993 and state:

(a) whether as on date, all districts in all States/Union Territories in the country are presently having Consumer District Forum;

(b) if not, the details of the States not having the District Consumer Fora; and

(c) what steps are being taken to see that each district has its own Consumer Forum as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the responsibility for setting up Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (District Forum) rests with the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations. At present, District Forums are functioning in 452 districts covering all the States/ UTs. The States of Bihar, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Orissa have to set up additional District Forum in the newly created districts Forums in the newely created districts. The Act does not extend to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Tindivanam G. Venkatraman.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, the answer given by the Minister is far from satisfactory and it doesn't contain full particulars. We have asked: How many districts in all States/Union Territories in the country are presently having Consumer District Forums as on date? This has not been clarified. The hon. Minister had mentioned in his reply that the States of Bihar, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Orissa have to set up additional District Forums in the newly created districts. But how many States are there which are yet to form District Forums?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Madam Deputy Chairman, we have already given it in the answer. At present, District Forums are functioning in 452 districts. In all the States there are District Forums. Only in four or five States additional District Forums in the newly created districts have to be set up.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, may I know from the Minister whether any representation has been received from the District and Sessions Judges that they are overburdened with cases in the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum? May I also know from the Minister whether any representation has been received from them that there should be a separate Tribunal for handling these cases? If so, is the Government thinking of appointing separate Tribunals to dispose of such cases?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: As per the Supreme Court judgement, if there are more than 150 cases consistently for six months, in those ditricts, the State Government should constitute full-time Forums within six months. If the cases are less than 150, then, the State Government should constitute full-time Forums within one year.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : उपसभापति महोदया, उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष मच (जिला मंच) माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर के अनुसार सभी राज्यों में सभी जिलों में बन गये है, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि उनमें उत्तर प्रदेश के किन-किन जिलों में ये जिला मच स्थापित हुए हैं और उनमें कितने जिलों में जो विवाद आए हैं, उनको निपटाने के लिये कितने जिलों में किन-किन बड़े अधिकारियों को क्या कोई सजा मिल पाई है ? इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहुंगा कि यह जो अधिनियम आपने बनाया है, यह [illegible] राज्य पर लागू नहीं होता, तो क्या उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम की जम्मू-काश्मीर के लोगों को जरूरत नहीं है और वहां उपभोक्ताओं को भगवान के भरोसे छोड़ दिया जाएगा?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many cases have come and how many people have been punished?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: First of all, I did not say that there are forums in all the districts. As per the latest report, there are 452 Districts Forums. ... (*Interruptions*)...I did not say in all the districts there are Forums. There are 452 forums out of 483 districts. In U.P., there are 63 districts and, as per our information, all the 63 districts are having forums.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is asking about Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: For Jammu and Kashmir, there is a separate law and as per that, there is a forum constituted.

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Why is the Ordinance not applied there?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, in many cases, it is like that. There are separate legislations. As per those legislations, they have their own formus.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : वहां उपभोक्ताओं के लिए कोई और व्यवस्था है, क्या मान्यवर ?

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा : उपसभापति महोदया, अगस्त माह के प्रथम सप्ताह में उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विधेयक, 1993 पास हुआ था और उस समय मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि देश के अन्दर 448 जिला उपभोक्ता फोरम गठित किये गये हैं और आज मंत्री जी आंकड़े दे रहे हैं, 452 के, तो मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि 15 दिनों के अन्दर 4 फोरम कौन-कौन से गठित हुए हैं ?

उपसभापति : चार फोरम आपने और बना लिए हैं।

because when you had the Bill piloted, there were 448 formus. Now there are 452. Which are the four new formus? He just wants to know that.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: I will inform him about that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will find out and let you know, Mr. Meena.

श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी : माननीय उपसभापति, महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि हालांकि यह सच है कि उपभोक्ता आंदोलन हमारे देश में तेजी से अग्र-गति की ओर बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन यह भी हकीकत है कि उपभोक्ता आंदोलन को मजबूर करने के लिए तथा उपभोक्ताओं की जो शिकायतें हैं, उन शिकायतों को दूर करने के लिए जो जिला मंच बनाए गए हैं उनकी हालत बहुत ही बदत्तर है। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 452 जिला मंच बनाए गए हैं लेकिन महोदया हकीकत यह है कि इन जिला मंचों की हालत दीवानी अदालतों से कम बदत्तर नहीं है। एक-एक जिला मंच के पास 4-4, 5-5 हजार मुकदमें पड़े हुए हैं जिनकी वर्षों तक कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती है। जो जिस उद्देश्य के तहत इस उपभोक्ता संरक्षण कानून का निर्माण किया गया और जिला मंचों का निर्माण किया गया कि ये जल्दी-से-जल्दी उपभोक्ताओं की शिकायतों की सुनवाई करेंगे, लेकिन चूंकि राज्यों के पास आर्थिक संसाधनों का अभाव है और राज्यों के पास इतनी क्षमता नहीं है कि वह इन जिला मंचों में "पूरा-वक्ती' कार्यकर्ता नियुक्त कर सकें और इस कारण पूरे वक्त के लिए जिला मंच कार्य नहीं कर रहे हैं। साथ ही जिला मंच और राज्य मंचों का कार्यालय भी एक साथ है, बैठने की जगह तक उपलब्ध नहीं है, तो जैसे-तैसे येन-केन-प्रकारेण एक ढांचा तैयार कर लिया गया है, लेकिन वास्तव में व्यवहार में वह ढांचा काम नहीं करता रहा है। इसलिए महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्रीजी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि अगर वास्तव में आप हमारे उपभोक्ताओं की समस्याओं के प्रति गंभीर हैं और चाहते हैं कि उनकी शिकायतों का निवारण हो तो इस ढांचे को उपयुक्त बनाने के लिए, इस ढांचे को कारगर बनाने के लिए राज्य सरकार जो मांग कर रही हैं कि उनको आर्थिक मदद दी जाए ताकि वे और जिला मंचों का गठन कर सकें, इसके लिए आप और क्या करने जा रहे हैं।

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: I agree with the hon. Member that District Forums are finding it difficult to function properly because of lack of basic facilities. But, as per the scheme of the legislation, the Central Government is responsible for providing for the facilities to the National Commission only. Regarding District Forums and State Commissions, it is the duty of the State Governments to give them all the facilities. I also understand that in many States these problems are there. As far as the Central Government is concerned, from the Ministers' side and the officials' side, again and again we request the State Governments that they should take interest to give more facilities to the forums so that they can function effectively. We will again request the State Governments that hereafter, after the passing of the Amendment Bill, they should make a special drive to make these forums more effective.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदया, इन जिला मंचों की स्थापना जिस उद्देश्य को लेकर की गयी है वह बहुत ही पुनीत उद्देश्य है और उसी कड़ी में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जब इतने सारे केसेज इनके सामने लंबित है तो इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या जल्दी ही या आने वाले थोड़े दिनों के अंदर जिन राज्यों के अंदर इनका गठन हुआ है उनके मंत्रीगणों का आप कोई सम्मेलन बुलाएंगे और इस बारे में गंभीरता के साथ विचार करेंगे ताकि इस कार्य को प्रभावी बनाया जाए और मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए जैसा अभी आपने कहा है कि तीन--चार राज्यों में जहां नए जिले गठित हुए है उनमें रिक्त मंच बनाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे कितने जिले हैंऔर इन जिलों में उनके गठन की प्रक्रिया पूरी करने में कितना समय लगेगा ? मैं यही जानना चाहता हूं ।

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Madam, the Central Government is again and again requesting the State Governments that they should give more facilities and they should activate these forums. Regarding the non-forum districts, only 32 districts are left out now. Out of these districts, we have already given clearance for forming fourteen new forums in Orissa, two in Punjab and one in Arunachal Pradesh. Now it is for the State Governments to speed up all these things. In almost all the meetings of the Consumer Protection Council, we are discussing the progress achieved in the functioning of the State Commissions, the National Commission and the district forums and from our side, we will constantly monitor these things. Recently, we had a meeting of the Food and Civil Supplies Ministers in which also we discussed all these things. Every now and then, we monitor these things and we give our own guidelines to the State Governments.

Performance of Employees Co-operatives

*363. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:†

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken notice of the fact that some of the employees co-operatives formed to take over sick units are doing well;

(b) whether Government have sought any report on their performance, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of sick industrial units taken over by the employees co-operatives; and

(d) whether Government have worked out a policy to help employees co-operatives to run industrial units if so, the details thereof and, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is mandatory for the management of a sick industrial company to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' cooperative is one of the measures envisaged under the Act.

According to the available information, BIFR has so far sanctioned

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Mira Das.